

PATENT
P56909**REMARKS**

This Amendment is prepared in response to the non-final Office action mailed on 15 May 2006 (Paper No. 20060506). Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7 through 12, 14 through 22 and 24 through 26 will be pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 11 and 15 by this amendment and has newly added claim 26 by this amendment.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4-5, 7-11, 20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103

In Paper No. 20060506, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7-11, 20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano et al. (US 6,008,582) in view of newly cited Kobayakawa et al. (US 4,407,066). Applicant has the following comments.

Regarding Applicant's claim 11, Applicant claims, "wherein the discharge cells defined by the first barrier ribs and the second barrier ribs, are rectangular and staggered to discharge cells on an opposite side of a first barrier rib". On Page 4 of Paper No. 20060506, the Examiner stated, "Referring to claim 11, Asano discloses the discharge cells defined by the first and second barrier ribs being rectangular and staggered to discharge cells on an opposite side of a first barrier rib (see Figs. 4-5 in view of Fig. 1)."

Furthermore, on page 9 of Paper No. 010506, the Examiner responded to Applicant's arguments that the discharge cells are "staggered" on opposite side of a first barrier rib. In paragraph (iv), the Examiner said that an ordinary lattice shaped array of discharge cells of

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Asano or Kato would read on Applicant's claimed staggering because an (i,j) discharge cell is staggered from an (i+1, j+1) etc and thus the lattice shaped discharge cell array is also staggered. Applicant disagrees.

Applicant submits that a lattice shaped discharge cell array can not be considered to be staggered. Applicant submits that staggered means that one row of discharge cells is shifted by a *fraction* of a discharge cell pitch from another row and does not imply that one row of discharge cells can be shifted by a whole number of pitches over. Applicant submits that the Examiner's assertion that an ordinary lattice structure is staggered as it is shifted by a whole number of pitches of discharge cells is an unreasonable interpretation of Applicant's claims. As a result, Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 11 and has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 11 while relegating the fixing groove limitation to claim 4. Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 11 to claim that the staggering is by a distance of less than a length of a side of the discharge cell to ensure patentability of this feature.

Applicant has also amended independent claim 15 and has added depending claim 26 to claim the patentable feature of allowed claim 12 where the second barrier ribs have grooves in the distal end thereof that receive the address electrodes. Entry of and favorable examination is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are patentable over the cited references, taken either alone or combination and accordingly should now be in a conditions suitable for allowance.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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